



# Broadway & Arts in New York

## Essential Questions

- Why is New York City considered a cultural capital of the world?
- How did the different art scenes contribute to what New York City is today?
- How are different levels of professional theater presented?
- What makes New York a world-class arts destination?
- How did music shape the cultural landscape of New York City?
- What is it like to be a Broadway theater professional?
- What is the difference between Broadway and Off-Broadway?
- What is Colorado Springs doing to bring quality theater to the region?

## Description

New York City is THE destination for many professional artists of all mediums. What about “the city that never sleeps” attracts them to such a metropolis? In the Broadway and Arts in New York ECS, students will research and experience firsthand the history and splendor that is New York City. All of the arts will be represented in this ECS. From guided tours of the Museum of Modern Art, Apollo Theater, Radio City Music Hall, and the Lincoln Center students will experience an intimate look at what makes New York a world-class destination.

What would a trip to New York City be without a deep dive into Broadway theater? On this ECS we will be exploring Times Square, and rounding off one of our evenings at Ellen’s Stardust Diner. Not only will we be watching 3 professional productions of varying styles and levels, but we will also be spending a day with Broadway professionals! We will be taking a workshop with a theater professional and listening to what it is like to perform on some of the world’s largest stages.

Before we take off to the “Big Apple” students will research New York and its many destinations. When we get back, we will research local theater companies and arts institutions. We will be talking with arts professionals from the Pikes Peak region to get an intimate understanding of what Colorado Springs is doing to create a unique cultural landscape.

# Getting Started & The Long Walk

By Reagn M. '27 & Brody Y. '27

March 4 & 5, 2024

This morning when we got to school, we watched each other's presentations about different places in New York. My presentation was on Little Italy. After hearing all about iconic landmarks and buildings in the Big City, we ate lunch and had a meeting about our 1st-grade buddies. My buddies were so excited to hear about the Upper School, and I had a blast getting to know them. It was so much fun to tell them all about what we were going to see and do on our trip to New York.

We started off the day by learning more about Jane Jacobs and how she helped change New York City to be more focused on the people, instead of just the architecture and cars. We watched a movie that helped us learn more about her and the conflict between her and Moses. After watching this movie, we ate lunch. Once we ate lunch, we went back to the classroom and we took more notes on Jane Jacobs. After that, we split into 2 groups and walked 2.8 miles each. My group walked to the church next to the lake, then to a restaurant called Tokki, and then we walked back. Once we got back, it was already time to leave. We all had a final talk about what we learned today. I thought the walk was fun since I was with all my friends and we all just walked together. But I found that it was challenging to walk the 2.8 miles for myself and my feet. Today, I believe the best part I took away was that walking a bit after you eat isn't the best idea and wearing proper footwear helps a lot.

# Spontaneity

By Kelly F. '26  
March 6, 2024

Today started by learning about various aspects of modern art. Graffiti, plays, artists of the movement, etc.. The group then moved on to learning about the importance of ensemble. The students (19) were divided into groups and explored teamwork and collaboration. First, they spun in a tight circle to see if one extra person could run through. They experimented with physical expression and body movements and then used this knowledge to bring animals, sets, and whole scenes together. Creating elephants, ostriches, crabs, horses, giraffes, and many more, was just the beginning. These animals interacted with one another as well, whether it be by chasing another, biting, etc. Afterward, the students were challenged to create settings: hospitals and fire stations, forests and mountains, and even race tracks. It was hard and proved challenging to the students, who nevertheless, pushed through! Then, everything was brought together, creating whole scenes with a set and characters! Students collaborated to create the aforementioned race car scene with a racetrack, stadium, cheering audience, and race car; as well as a zoo with enclosures, giraffes, and peacocks!

Improvisation, the act of creating/performing spontaneously was next. One of these activities involved groups creating a "presentation" with a presenter and 3 actors, who would create the scene the presenter was describing. All this was done on the spot and the location of the "presentation" was decided on the fly. Presentations included: the murder of a rich uncle in Egypt, a disastrous trip to the moon, and a volcano hike with an ill-intentioned stalker, among many others. The last was an improv activity where the students based their scene on a monologue about doctors and apples. The day was heavily focused on theater and ensemble work. It was very entertaining and exciting being on the stage and getting the opportunity to watch others perform!



# Here We Come, NYC!

By Elle K. '27

March 7, 2024

We left for New York today. We all arrived at school around 10 a.m. We found out each other's hotel room buddies before eating lunch at school because we wouldn't stop for food on the way to DIA (Denver International Airport). The traffic was pretty smooth. Many of us slept on the way. We met Mr. Wells at the airport. Once we checked in and went through security, we made our way to the gate. We took a few pictures and everyone got snacks. Finally after 20 minutes or so, we boarded the plane. I was very lucky and got boarding group 2. The plane ride was very smooth with a few bumps here and there. We landed in New York! I made sure to take pictures of our plane flying over the city. We even flew over the Statue of Liberty. Some of us weren't so lucky and had to check our bags. We deboarded the plane and left for baggage claim after looking for Mr. Wells's lost earbud. We didn't end up finding it. We got our bags and met our tour guide Michel. We expected a long drive to the hotel, but it wasn't too bad. We checked in and got our credit cards for food and other things. We settled into our rooms and then went out for food. We ended up getting pizza. This was my first time buying something by myself. Overall, I think this first day of our trip was amazing and a huge success!



# New York, New York

By Ahna W. '24 and Izzi Z. '24

March 8, 2024

New York, New York! Our first entire day in the aptly named city that never sleeps was full of good food, great sights, and a grand introduction to the world of Broadway. After seeking out breakfast, we headed out to do some shopping and sightseeing around SoHo and Chinatown. The group had a wonderful time at the shops of Canal Street which is home to an abundance of local artisans and uniquely splendid souvenirs. We also had time to explore the artistic atmosphere of Washington Square, a favorite spot for NYU students and street performers alike that houses a rich historical background. A few of the students went for a short walk to visit the Stonewall National Monument and frolic down Waverly Street before heading back down Fifth Avenue. After experiencing the hustle and bustle of all the busy streets, it was time to take the scenic route and enjoy a peaceful stroll through the entrancing grounds of Central Park. The group began in Strawberry Fields, home to the iconic memorial for John Lennon, and then journeyed further into the park to embark on a walk through The Ramble before making a stop at Belvedere Castle and the Shakespeare Garden.

Our class was swept up into a sea of human life and the sensations of the city as we ventured into Times Square for dinner. Pizza felt extremely fitting for the occasion, and the conversations consumed the time until we had our *Lion King* appearance to make! No matter how well we knew the story beforehand, nothing could replace the fresh feeling that came with the colorful kaleidoscopic lights, the stunning costumes, and the elaborate dance numbers we got to see! When watching the musical, I was so overcome with emotion that I found myself laughing



at parts that they'd pulled from the movie and even crying at a scene that I already saw coming. Being immersed in a theatrical performance like that and feeling the delighted buzzing in my brain of thoughts and questions about the show made me smile. As we walked back to the hotel, none of us could stop smiling or laughing. The Times Square lights and the shared excitement for the performance truly convinced me that our trip was off to the most spectacular start.



# Just Like Frank

By Tristan K. '26  
March 9, 2024

Like Frank Sinatra said, if I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere. And so, we made it! New York is wonderful! I've had so many fun experiences here and it's so so cool!! So today, we took a boat ride across the chilly windy ocean waters to Lady Liberty herself, and she is marvelous. Her green figure towering over us below the ominous clouds was amazing to see. We took the stairs up to the podium, watching over us all like a goddess. After that, we took the cold ride, sadly not having time to visit the immigrant island Ellis Island. After we got back, we got some food and then walked in the light rain to the 9/11 memorial outside the One World Trade Center. After that, we walked past Wall Street and then we went to the marvelous Radio City Music Hall. The exterior, interior, tour, and everything about it was genuinely so amazing. We saw many behind-the-scenes things that regular tourists don't see, such as the massive elevator system that went underground 27 feet and above 13 feet. After that, we went to see Blue Man Group. The show was very interesting. It was comedic, it was weird, and there was a whole light rave in the middle with a live rock band. We had a great night and had to head back in the literal flood back to the hotel. After that, we finally relaxed as the rain slowly fell outside, our wonderful day finally complete.



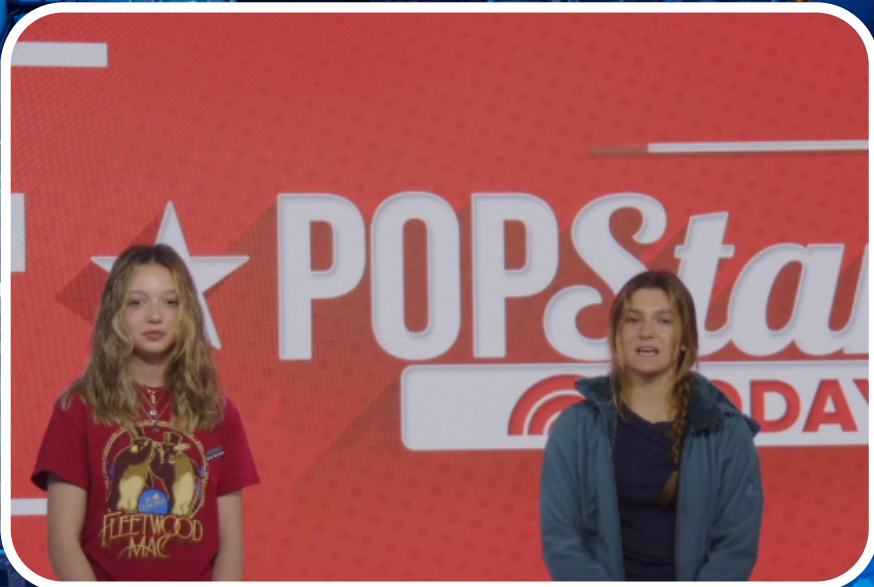
# Spreeeeee!

By Meia A. '26  
March 10, 2024

First thing in the morning, we had a tour of the one and only NBC studios, where we got to see the rooms (studios), and all the backstage work, such as sets, sketches, lights, audio, graphics, and more, of how some of America's most iconic shows were made. We saw the studio where Jimmy Fallon hosts the Tonight Show, where Saturday Night Live is produced, and where the Kelly Clarkson show is aired.

If that already sounds eventful, I haven't even gotten to the best part yet... Shopping! After our tour, we were given 2 hours of free time to go and roam 30 Rockefeller Plaza, and even inside the gigantic mall of NBC studios itself. Myself and two other people visited a store called F.A.O Schwarz first, headed to the McNally Jackson Library next, and went to take a peek at St. Patrick's Cathedral. I wanted to go to the Lego Store too, but there was a pretty long line in front of it and we didn't have much time to wait in line at that point, so instead, we made our way back to NBC studios, went downstairs, and had lunch at Potbelly Sandwich Shop, and Ben & Jerry's. After lunch, we still had a little more time to kill, so we spent the rest of it wandering around J. Crew.

After our adventures, we walked to Chelsea Market, a market in a building that makes it seem like it's in an underground bunker somewhere... Anyway, we got to have free time for about the same time as before and went to check out many cool shops, such as Pearl River and the Damselfly Flower Shop.





At this point, the weather was pretty frigid, but our day wasn't over yet. What's a trip without going to the Hudson Yards observation deck? (Boring, that's what). If you can imagine walking through freezing, sharp wind, for about 15 minutes, those are the conditions we were walking in to get to the Hudson Yards. Jaw-clenching, really. Well, we made it up to that observation deck, but some of us decided it was pretty nasty outside, so we did a photoshoot instead.

Alright, we're basically at the end of our day here. After the observation deck (which was after dinner, by the way). We trekked to our hotel in the still-frigidly-icy-windy weather and just relaxed for the rest of the night. Good night America, and thank you for watching our show!

